

2009 - 2010 Annual Review



Chair and Chief Executive's Report

growth in Northern Ireland too, where we now have our first voluntary representative.

Overall, our membership has grown to more than 500, and there are many more non-member gardens, schools and allotment groups that benefit from our support.

The Federation has continued to further its work and influence across the UK during the last 12 months. This success, and the fantastic work of our member groups, was celebrated in May 2009 with a visit to London's Hackney City Farm by our Patron HRH The Prince of Wales, accompanied by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall.

Development has been the key word for FCFCG during the past year. Funding from the Local Food programme has enabled us to start supporting an increasing number of food growing groups in England. As a result our staffing has expanded and we have new offices in Coventry, Plymouth and Manchester.

In both Wales and Scotland there has been a surge in membership and a healthy demand for our support services. We continue to work with existing partners, while seeking to forge closer links with other community sector organisations. We have also established fruitful dialogues with both Scottish and Welsh governments, which will continue into the future. There are green shoots of



Jeremy Iles (Chief Executive) and David Drury (Chair)



Hayleys Field Allotments

It's still early days yet, but to date, responses from a wide range of stakeholders have been positive.

At this stage we hope to gain outline 'approval' from a wide range of potential stakeholders for the concept, and then begin a series of practical, in-depth studies which will pilot the concept in specific locations. From these pilot projects we hope to roll out a model that would be replicable in different areas, both urban and rural.

Plans are in place to conduct research into these emerging trends this autumn and we have begun consultations to ensure that the Community Land Bank is not simply duplication, but offers real added value.

and British Waterways. There are also other initiatives starting to address the issue, including the web-based Landshare scheme that matches up land seekers with those that have land available.



Community Land Bank

Finance Summary: April 2008 - March 2009

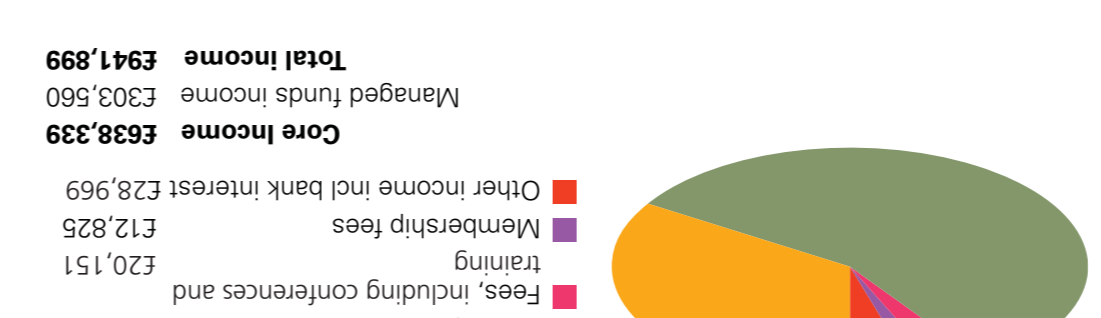
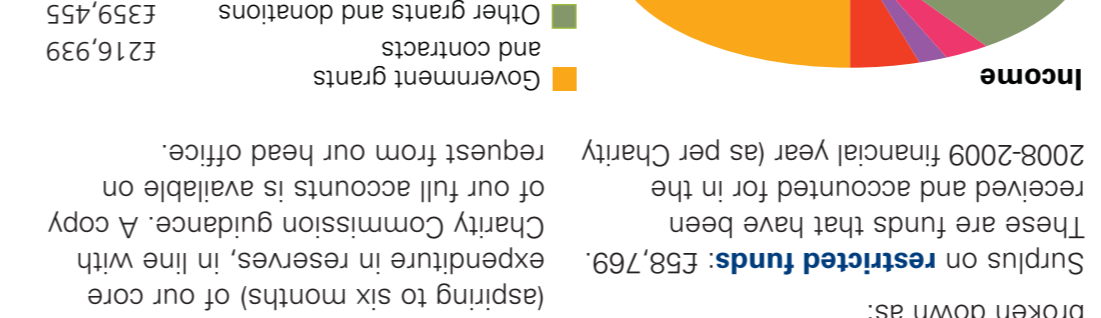
Commission SORP guidelines) and will be utilised in the following years.

Our **core income** was £638,339. An additional £303,560 of funds managed by us on behalf of other organisations gave a total income of £941,899.

Our **core expenditure** of £553,559 plus managed funds expenditure of £303,560 gave a total expenditure of £857,119.

This gives a total surplus of £84,780 broken down as:

Surplus on **restricted funds**: £58,769. These are funds that have been received and accounted for in the 2008-2009 financial year (as per Charity Commission guidance. A copy of our full accounts is available on request from our head office.



Unrestricted funds surplus/transfer to reserves £58,769

Managed funds and partners expenditure £303,560

Total Expenditure £857,119

Some organisations are already opening up their land holdings, such as the National Trust, Network Rail

There is a huge range of land sources available - local authorities, private landlords, private companies, institutions with green spaces, such as hospitals, school grounds and under-used land around social housing developments could provide opportunities. Land in rural areas could come from farmers wishing to diversify or through parish councils.

The Bank would negotiate for land, hold it and then release it to user groups under legally enforceable contracts. The Bank would also arrange insurance and ensure legal and technical compliance.

FCFCG is looking into the creation of a Community Land Bank to negotiate and release areas of land to groups of local people, which would help deal with the rapid rise in demand for food growing plots across the UK.

- The Green Pennant, a national award that recognises high quality green spaces, has been given to 20 FCFCG members this year
- Homeless people from the St Mungo's gardening scheme won a Silver Medal at the Chelsea Flower show
- Lower Shaw Farm in Wiltshire won the garden category of the Observer Ethical Awards
- Prudhoe Community Allotment in Northumberland has gained a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
- Spitalfields City Farm in London was honoured in the Guardian Charity Awards.

It has been a busy period of growth for the FCFCG in Scotland. Our Growing Communities in Scotland partnership with Trillis and the Allotments Regeneration Initiative has been supporting local groups looking to start community and therapeutic gardens, farms, orchards and allotments. Training sessions, study tours and the national FFCG was invited to take part in the first Northern Ireland Allotments Forum this year and we are hoping to move ahead with further work in 2010.

Around the UK

advice is now widely available through the FCFCG support worker team and many groups have taken advantage of our travel bursary scheme to have fantastic days out visiting other member projects. A map of Welsh groups is now being put together.

Regeneration Initiative has been supporting local groups looking to start community and therapeutic gardens, farms, orchards and allotments. Training sessions, study tours and the national FFCG was invited to take part in the first Northern Ireland Allotments Forum this year and we are hoping to move ahead with further work in 2010.

Wales has seen a huge increase in FFCG membership during the last year. A series of regional gatherings have provided the chance for these new members to meet and swap ideas and inspiration. Training events aiming to encourage social inclusion and community enterprise on projects have also been held. Support and

Department for Communities and Local Government to promote the benefits of urban green spaces, including allotments. Meanwhile, our Growing Communities in England, is already giving support to many new food growing groups and has increased training and networking opportunities for all our existing members.



Members

This newsletter is also available in **large print, braille or on audio tape** from our Head Office

Harvest Festival and AGM

The City Harvest Festival at Capel Manor attracted thousands of visitors again this year, including a Minister from the Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs. The event, a showcase for community-run farms and gardens in London, was also the venue for our AGM, where FCFCG appointed two new board members.

Blue Peter appeal grants

FCFCG was a charity partner in last year's Blue Peter Mission Nutrition appeal. We have used funds raised by the appeal to create a grants scheme that will encourage children to learn more about growing and eating healthy food. The grants will act as seed funds to buy tools or develop school veg gardens for children, focusing particularly on those who are 'disadvantaged' through poor health, poverty or learning/physical disabilities.

Members Success Stories

Our member groups are often hitting the headlines with success stories. Here are a just a small selection from the year:

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Community Land Bank

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UK Partnerships

FCFCG would like to thank our funders, which include:

Become a Federation Supporter

Your donation will help strengthen our work across the UK and in return you will receive our public newsletters and annual review. Remember: if you pay income tax we can claim back 28% tax on your donation.

Yes, I'll become a Supporter. I'd like to:

enclose a cheque payable to FCFCG (£20 minimum).

give permission for FCFCG to reclaim tax on my donation

I also wish to receive *Growing Places*, FCFCG's quarterly newsletter for its members.

Date _____

Signature _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please return to FCFCG Head Office. Alternatively visit www.farmgarden.org.uk/donate to make a donation online

Growing With Schools

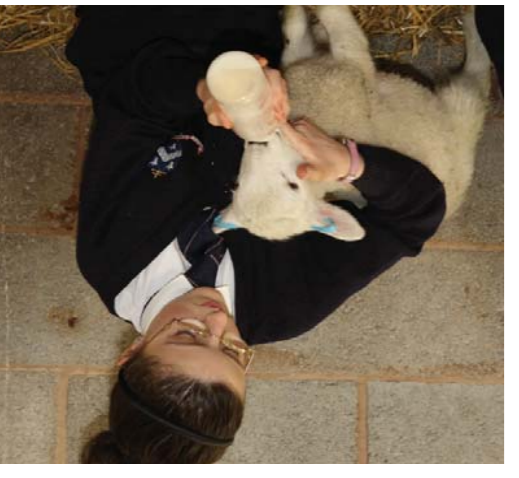
This Coventry-based project, set up by FCFCG along with Cardinal Wiseman School farm, helps schools access personalised expert support for food growing. It now has two part-time staff members, who are busy supporting clusters of schools to develop fruit and vegetable production. Such is the rate of progress that many now at the stage of wanting to keep livestock, such as rabbits or poultry.

Allotments Regeneration Initiative

ARI continues to take a UK-wide role in local, regional and national allotment matters. ARI has been delivering a busy schedule of regional events for council Allotments Officers and also taking part in national strategic developments around the UK, including an update to the publication *Growing in the Community* for the Local Government Association. Meanwhile the ARI Mentor Network is very busy providing help and support to anyone creating or regenerating allotments throughout the UK.

School Farms Network

SFN continues to give advice, information and networking opportunities to a rapidly growing number of school farms across the UK. There are now 78 school farms in operation, up from a low of 66 just three years ago. The future also looks brighter with nearly 40 schools actively working towards keeping livestock.



Members



Federation of
City Farms
& Community
Gardens

Supporting,
representing and
promoting
community farms
and gardens, as a
means of helping
communities to
grow



Local food growing: 'Green Street' Project

stonebridgegreestreet.blogspot.com

This Big Lottery funded project, run by Stonebridge City Farm in Nottingham, aims to improve access to fresh, locally grown and affordable produce by supplying local residents with semi-grown plants and encouraging them to grow their own produce in home-based growing schemes. An outreach worker is on hand to give support.

New and existing volunteers are growing these 'plantlets' in polytunnels and on open farm space. They receive a skills-based Food Growing Certificate for this work. The project has a parallel beekeeping and honey production programme called 'Beewise'.

There are plans for an annual Harvest Festival of Local Food, allowing growers to display their produce and visitors to sample recipes made from local food. Green Street hopes to raise awareness with groups such as lone parents, people with disabilities, low income families, incapacity benefit/ESA claimants and young people - groups who are excluded from healthy food, often by price barriers.



Environmental education: Hulme Community Garden Centre

www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk

Hulme Community Garden Centre (HCGC) is a unique, community led inner-city horticultural project in Manchester. Its mission is to bring the local community together through gardening. A volunteering and education hub, HCGC promotes horticultural and sustainability issues to schools, colleges, the local community and wider public.

There are free workshops for the local community, socially excluded groups, schools and voluntary organisations. HCGC is underpinned by organic principles and promotes sustainability, horticulture and the environment, civic engagement and voluntary activity, urban gardening and food production, independent living, health and well-being.

The group also provides back to work and skills training and placements for longer-term unemployed people. In the future, the aim is to develop HCGC as an Environmental Education centre to promote wildlife conservation and sustainable development within the community. There are plans to expand the site and open a visitor and education centre.



Working with excluded groups: Forest Farm Peace Garden

www.forestfarmpeacegarden.org

Based on a regenerated allotments site in Hainault in Greater London, Forest Farm Peace Garden is a productive, therapeutic space which contributes to sustainable local food production, to the well-being of the community, and to the promotion of a diverse, tolerant and equitable society.

The Garden works with a cross-section of the community to promote health, well-being and cultural awareness. Refugees and asylum seekers can join in communal activities and tend their own plots in the garden, where they can grow the fruits and vegetables of their choice. There is also a supported volunteering programme for people with, or recovering from, enduring mental ill health.

The garden is designed to teach about the natural world, educate about environmental technologies, and encourage sustainable ways of living.

It offers opportunities for people of all ages and levels of experience interested in volunteering, community and the environment with activities ranging from tree planting through to African drumming.



2010



These mini case studies illustrate the diverse work carried out by city farms and community gardens across the UK

January	February	March
f 1 New Year's Day	m 1	m 1
sa 2	tu 2	tu 2
su 3	w 3 National Potato Day	w 3
m 4 Holiday (Scotland)	th 4	th 4
tu 5	f 5	f 5
w 6	sa 6	sa 6
th 7	su 7	su 7
f 8	m 8	m 8
sa 9	tu 9	tu 9
su 10	w 10	w 10
m 11	th 11	th 11
tu 12	f 12	f 12
w 13	sa 13	sa 13
th 14	su 14 Chinese New Year	su 14
f 15	m 15	m 15
sa 16	tu 16 Pancake Day	tu 16
su 17	w 17	w 17
m 18	th 18	th 18
tu 19	f 19	f 19
w 20	sa 20	sa 20 Spring equinox
th 21	su 21	su 21
f 22	m 22	m 22
sa 23	tu 23	tu 23
su 24	w 24	w 24
m 25	th 25	th 25
tu 26	f 26	f 26
w 27	sa 27	sa 27
th 28	su 28	su 28
f 29	m 29	m 29
sa 30	tu 30	tu 30
su 31	w 31	w 31

April	May	June
th 1	sa 1	tu 1
f 2 Good Friday	su 2	w 2
sa 3	m 3 May Bank Holiday	th 3
su 4 Easter Day	tu 4	f 4
m 5 Easter Monday	w 5	sa 5
tu 6	th 6	su 6
w 7	f 7	m 7
th 8	sa 8	tu 8
f 9	su 9	w 9
sa 10	m 10	th 10
su 11	tu 11	f 11
m 12	w 12	sa 12
tu 13	th 13	su 13
w 14	f 14	m 14
th 15	sa 15	tu 15
f 16	su 16	w 16
sa 17	m 17	th 17
su 18	tu 18	f 18
m 19	w 19	sa 19
tu 20	th 20	su 20
w 21	f 21	m 21 Summer Solstice
th 22	sa 22	tu 22
f 23	su 23	w 23
sa 24	m 24	th 24
su 25	tu 25	f 25
m 26	w 26	sa 26
tu 27	th 27 Vesak (Bhuddist)	su 27
w 28	f 28	m 28
th 29	sa 29	tu 29
f 30	su 30	w 30
	m 31 Spring Bank Holiday	

July	August	September
th 1	su 1	w 1
f 2	m 2 Summer Holiday (Scotland)	th 2
sa 3	tu 3	f 3
su 4	w 4	sa 4
m 5	th 5	su 5
tu 6	f 6	m 6
w 7	sa 7	tu 7
th 8	su 8	w 8
f 9	m 9	th 9
sa 10	tu 10	f 10 Eid (Ramadan ends)
su 11	w 11 Ramadan starts	sa 11
m 12	th 12	su 12
tu 13	f 13	m 13
w 14	sa 14	tu 14
th 15	su 15	w 15
f 16	m 16	th 16
sa 17	tu 17	f 17
su 18	w 18	sa 18 Yom Kippur
m 19	th 19	su 19
tu 20	f 20	m 20
w 21	sa 21	tu 21
th 22	su 22	w 22
f 23	m 23	th 23 Autumn equinox
sa 24	tu 24	f 24
su 25	w 25	sa 25
m 26	th 26	su 26
tu 27	f 27	m 27
w 28	sa 28	tu 28
th 29	su 29	w 29
f 30	m 30 Summer Bank Holiday	th 30
sa 31	tu 31	

October	November	December
f 1	m 1	w 1
sa 2	tu 2	th 2
su 3	w 3	f 3
m 4	th 4	sa 4
tu 5	f 5 Bonfire Night & Diwali	su 5
w 6	sa 6	m 6
th 7	su 7	tu 7
f 8	m 8	w 8
sa 9	tu 9	th 9
su 10	w 10	f 10
m 11	th 11	sa 11
tu 12	f 12	su 12
w 13	sa 13	m 13
th 14	su 14	tu 14
f 15	m 15	w 15
sa 16	tu 16	th 16
su 17	w 17	f 17
m 18	th 18	sa 18
tu 19	f 19	su 19
w 20	sa 20	m 20
th 21 Apple Day	su 21	tu 21 Winter Solstice
f 22	m 22	w 22
sa 23	tu 23	th 23
su 24	w 24	f 24
m 25	th 25	sa 25 Christmas Day
tu 26	f 26	su 26
w 27	sa 27	m 27 Christmas Bank Holiday
th 28	su 28	tu 28 Christmas Bank Holiday
f 29	m 29	w 29
sa 30	tu 30 St Andrews Day (Scotland)	th 30
su 31 Halloween		f 31